



FY2006 (7/1/05 – 6/30/06) Annual Work Plan - Interim Okanogan Conservation District

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Mission of the Okanogan Conservation District

- To foster and support the locally-led conservation of renewable resources in Okanogan County.....enhancing both their productivity and sustainability through the voluntary application of technically feasible, and economically viable, Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Natural Resource Priorities and Goals:

- Forest health and fuels reduction on a watershed wide scale
- Addressing livestock nutrient and waste management issues (AFO/CAFO)
- Strategy developed and being implemented for using biomass for alternative energy
- Provide assistance for the improvement and/or protection of fish and wildlife habitat
- Work to improve conservation values (CRM) on a watershed basis
- Providing support for small acreage and specialty crop producers for the protection of resources; production of crops, education of conservation issues, and enhancing economic viability

Information – Education Priorities and Goals:

- Continue efforts to educate landowners about watershed health and function – e.g. irrigation water management, riparian management, upland management and health
- Continue to work effectively with existing agency and non-governmental organization (NGOs) and create and improve relationships with new partners

District Operations Priorities, Goals & Funding Sources:

- Develop a source of stable funding
- Administer grants, supervise district operations, and evaluate program effectiveness

Program Area: Forest health

Goal(s): In 5 years, 1,500 acres of private forest treated to benefit forest health.

Funding Source(s): FLEP & EQIP

Strategies:

Develop appropriate GIS data layers for road density, forest density, and forest species (to address TS7 in the Okanogan Watershed Water Quality Management Plan).

Activities for FY2006	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding
Continue propagation of tree seedlings as needed for reforestation activities (approximately 40,000-50,000 stems per year)	March	Laura	10	\$2,400
Explore opportunities for sponsoring or conducting Fire Wise programs in Okanogan County	Dec	Craig/Laura/ Bob A.	3	\$720
Make contacts within wildland/urban interface communities (or their associations) to inform them of our services and determine their needs	6-30-06	Bob A./Laura	10	\$2,400
Work with other agencies on the National Fire Plan	6-30-06	Bob A./Laura	20	\$4,800

Program Area: Range health and livestock operation improvements

Goal(s): By 2010 implement CRM/RMS plans on 600,000 acres in order to improve range health.

Funding Source(s): OCTA & WSCC IMP07

Activities for FY2006	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding
Track coordination, implementation and provide training as needed to existing CRM/RMS plans	6-30-06	Bob A/Ray	10	\$2,400
Apply CRM/RMS on 10,000 acres	6-30-06	Bob A/Ray	10	\$2,400
Apply waste management systems/nutrient management and cost share on 20 farms	6-30-06	Bob A/Ray	20	\$4,800
Seek funding for AFO/CAFO cost share and technical assistance	6-30-06	Bob A/Bob C	5	\$1,200

Program Area: Biomass to energy

Goal(s): By 2010, process biomass to energy in order to assist with reduced waste to the landfills, improved air quality by reducing smoke emissions of burning, assist in reducing hazardous forest fuels, and to create energy.

Funding Source(s): CTED & DOE & EPA

Activities for FY2006	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding
Feasibility study	6-30-07	Laura	45	\$10,800
Appropriate partnerships	6-30-06	Laura	5	\$1,200
Locate funding for and begin Demo project, including identifying supply and marketing issues	6-30-08	Laura	10	\$2,400
Outreach	6-30-10	Laura	20	\$4,800

Program Area: Fish and Wildlife habitat

Goal(s): By 2010 increase or improve available fish and wildlife habitat by removing 10 passage barriers, improving proper functioning condition ratings on 2 miles of stream, and improving 100 acres of upland habitat.

Funding Source(s): DOE & USF&W & SRFB

Strategies:

Using existing information, including District barrier survey data, to correct or remedy 10 fish passage barriers
Develop or improve riparian habitat
Apply irrigation water management/nutrient management
Develop a water quality baseline study for the Okanogan River & Methow River Watersheds

Activities for FY2006	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding
Remove two fish passage barriers in Beaver Cr.	6-30-06	Bob A	30	\$7,200
Install 50 acres of riparian buffers using CREP where applicable	6-30-06	Bob C	45	\$10,800
Complete an inventory and analysis for Bonaparte Cr.	6-30-06	Bob A	20	\$4,800
Perform water gauging with the County and Bureau of Reclamation	6-30-06	Dwight	20	\$4,800
Apply irrigation water management/nutrient management on 500 acres	6-30-06	Ray/Kelly	20	\$4,800

Continue implementation of 2514 – watershed planning in the Okanogan Watershed	6-30-06	Craig/Bob C.	180	\$43,200
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Program Area: Small acreage assistance

Goal(s): Provide assistance to 20 small acreage cooperators by 2010.

Funding Source(s): OCTA & WSCC IMPL07

Activities for FY2006	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding
Emphasize backyard conservation programs	6-30-06	Staff	10	\$2,400
Advertise availability of services to small acreage landowners	6-30-06	Staff	10	\$2,400
Working cooperatively with WSU on alternative marketing projects	6-30-06	Craig/Laura	5	\$1,200
Participate in the community booth at the farmer's markets	6-30-06	Staff	5	\$1,200

Program Area: Natural Resource Education

Goal(s): Continue efforts to educate citizens about watershed health and function and the function of the conservation district

Funding Source(s): OCTA & WSCC IMPL07 & DOE

Strategies:

Develop a student resource conservation program beginning with the Okanogan FFA group

Marketing through multiple media sources

Activities for FY2006	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding
Provide current conservation district activity information to the general public at least quarterly (newsletter, website and news releases)	Jan/April/ July/Oct/ As needed	Staff	30	\$7,200
Develop and distribute technical fact sheets regarding natural resource issues and activities specific to Okanogan County	As needed	Craig/Bob C. /Laura	20	\$4,500
Interact with schools (Envirothon, 6 th Grade Camps, Watershed Watchers, Loup Loup Field day, and other programs as opportunities arise)	April/May/ October/as needed	Laura/Staff	14	\$3,200
Participate at the County Fair, Horticulture convention, weed board certification classes	Jan/Sept./as needed	Board/Staff	52	\$12,000
Assist with the 2006 State Envirothon	May	Laura	5	\$1,200
Begin working with students and their advisor to develop course syllabus and provide introductory training	June	Laura	5	\$1,200
Adapt the Chelan homeowner's brochure and the Methow Conservancy's "Good Neighbor" brochure into one brochure for Okanogan County concerning water quality	6-30-06	Laura	10	\$2,400
Conduct District Annual Tour and other tours as needed	6-30-06	Board/Staff	10	\$2,400

Program Area: Effective administration and operation of District programs

Goal(s): By 2010 have all district staff, facilities and funding needed to complete all aspects of the long range plan

Funding Source(s): OCTA & WSCC IMPL07 & Various

Strategies:

Improve communications with 10 resource agencies and entities

Develop a source of stable funding

Activities for FY2006	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time(Days) Required	Estimated Funding
Seek funding for GIS specialist, CRM coordinator, Forester, Range Specialist, and Natural Resource Educator	6-30-06	Craig/Laura	15	\$3,600
Develop a joint newsletter with partnering resource agencies	6-30-06	Laura	5	\$1,200
Meet periodically with resource agency managers	Ongoing	Board/Staff	10	\$2,400
Update Okanogan County Commissioners and Okanogan County Cattlemen on AFO/CAFO rule changes and our role	Ongoing	Craig/Bob A	10	\$2,400
Maintain communication and participatory role as needed with WACD Livestock Committee	Ongoing	Craig/Bob A	20	\$4,800
Pursue property assessment possibilities	July thru Dec.	Board/Craig/Laura	15	\$3,600
Research funding sources and request as appropriate	As needed	Staff	25	\$6,000
Assist with the Local Work Group as necessary to review natural resource concerns	As needed	Craig	5	\$1,200